Tune to your favorite local radio station for daily construction updates!

Route 1 Motorist Alert

Fall 1993
New Jersey Department of Transportation

NJDOT sounds alert on Route 1 projects

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) announced September 2 that it has scheduled a series of upcoming resurfacing and construction projects on Route 1 at night in order to minimize disrupting traffic, but warned that potentially severe impacts could occur.

"Virtually all of this work will be done at night to minimize the traffic impacts, but rough riding surfaces, narrow lanes and the establishment of construction zones will inevitably slow traffic," said Deputy Transportation Commissioner Kathy Stanwick.

"We are taking a series of actions to mitigate the potential traffic problems, but Route 1 congestion, particularly during rush hour, is such that any disruption will cause impacts. We urge commuters to consider riding the train or bus, or joining a carpool or vanpool. Every car we can get off the road will help reduce congestion and, in the long run, help improve New Jersey's poor air quality."

The NJDOT is in the second year of its five-year, $240 million program to widen and eliminate traffic lights on Route 1. A series of projects started earlier this year has had little traffic impact because most of the work has taken place adjacent to Route 1 instead of on the roadway.

"That lull in construction work directly on the roadway is about to end and, unfortunately, the impacts on traffic are about to resume," Stanwick said. "We intend to alert the motoring public and Route 1 employers early and often about each of these projects and when to expect overnight lane closings."

In order to minimize the impacts of the new projects on traffic, all of the resurfacing work will be performed at night between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. At least one lane will have to be kept open to traffic at all times.

Variable message sign boards will be posted at each project to update motorists on traffic restrictions. In addition, towing services will be on 24-hour call to immediately

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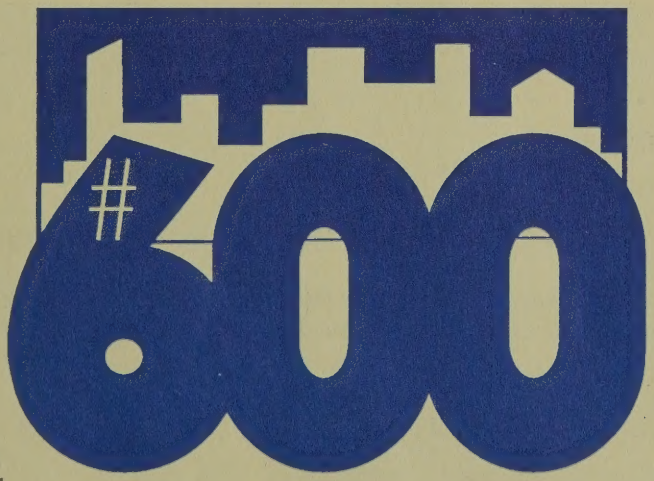
Expanded # 600 bus route attracts new riders



Ridership on NJ TRANSIT's expanded #600 bus route was up 64% over the weekday median ridership figures for the same time last year. This past month, 554 passengers daily rode the #600 line as compared to 319 one year ago.

The Trenton to Plainsboro bus route along Route 1 was expanded in May and now includes stops every half hour at the Trenton and Princeton Junction train stations, area park and ride lots, malls and employment centers. The expansion was made possible by the Route 1 Traffic Mitigation Program which is funded entirely by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

Ridership jumped immediately from a steady 319 daily in 1992 to 459, 528, 461 and 472 for the first four weeks of expanded operation that began in May. Ridership topped 500 in the seventh week and is continuing to rise, according to Alan Maiman, NJ TRANSIT service planning manager.

The expanded #600 service provides commuters with other advantages: an "express" service on Route 1, a way to get to and from two train stations and a mid-day guaranteed ride home for train riders.

Public transit incentives are part of the mix of options the Route 1 Task Force is offering motorists for five years. Begun as efforts to lessen disturbances for car commuters from scheduled highway construction, state officials are considering all alternatives to driving alone for long-term solutions for reducing congestion and helping employers meet the requirement of trip reductions that have been mandated in New Jersey by the federal Clean Air Act.

[SEE ROUTE MAP ON PAGE 2]

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Route 1 congestion spurs police talks

A sign that reads "Route 1 Safety Effort — All M.V. Laws Strictly Enforced" is the only public indication that traffic officers from North Brunswick to Lawrence meet every month or so to trade information about handling traffic on Route 1.

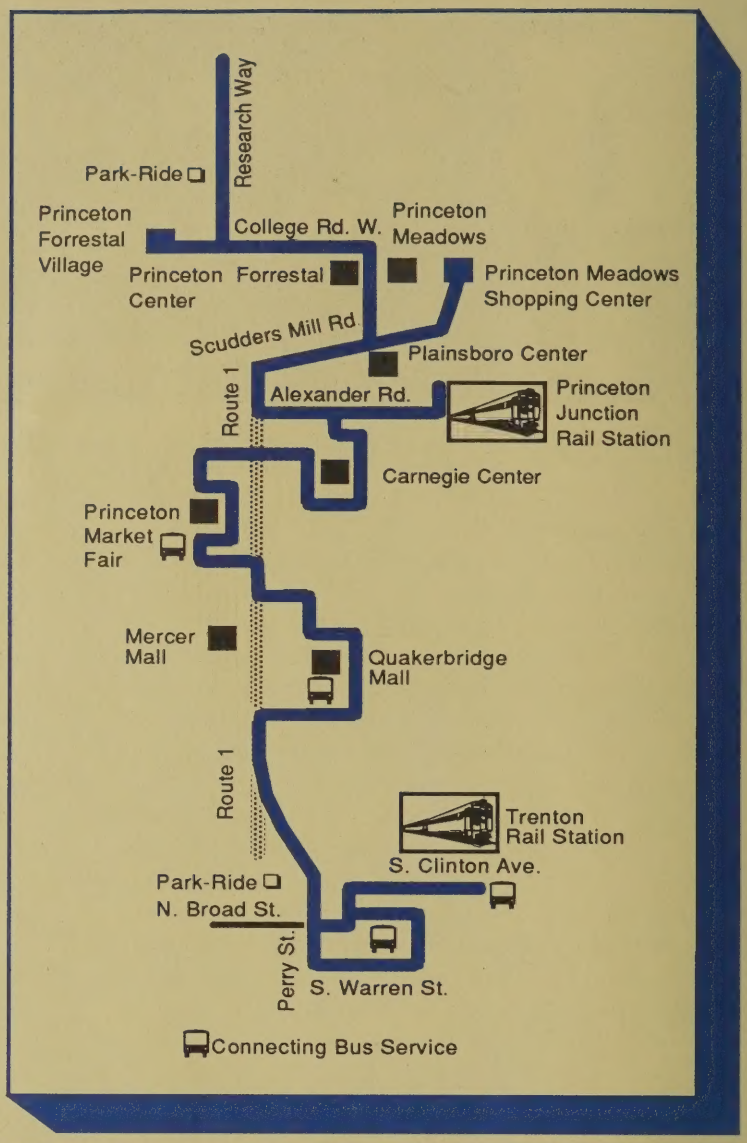
"The greatest thing that has happened as a result of our meetings is that we are communicating with each other," said former Police Chief Cliff Maurer of Plainsboro.

Conceived by West Windsor Police Chief Frank Cox, the informal work sessions give municipal traffic departments an opportunity to coordinate their patrols during commuter hours, develop communication networks, pool resources for accidents, or incident management and compile statistics.

Shadow Traffic was invited to a meeting a few months ago and has stayed on as a part of the group.

The police chiefs also work with the Greater Princeton Security Association whose members are employed by corporations from Cranbury to Hopewell to North Brunswick. This group has published a booklet of resources, including FAX numbers, that they have given the police departments so they can work together more efficiently in emergencies.

#600 BUS ROUTE



ROUTE 1 HOTLINES

General Information.
Call **1-800-245-POOL**

Commuter services.
If you work in **Middlesex County**, call Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM) 908-745-2326; FAX 908-745-7482.
If you work in **Mercer County,** call Greater Princeton TMA, 609-452-1491; FAX 609-452-0028.
If you work in **Somerset County,** call RideWise at 908-704-1011.

Bus, train schedules.
Call NJ TRANSIT at **1-800-772-2222.**

Employers.
FAX Network. Receive Route 1 updates immediately from your county TMA listed above.
Meetings. For information about the employer **Advisory Task Force,** call Alex Brown at 908-308-4096.
Advisory Committee. The Route One Advisory Committee has scheduled a meeting for September 14, 1993 at 2 p.m. at the North Brunswick Municipal Complex on Hermann Road, to discuss upcoming Route 1 corridor projects.

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New bus links NJ employment centers with Bucks County

A new bus route, dubbed the *Route 1 Express*, began free service on September 13, a recommendation of the Route 1 Traffic Mitigation Task Force and Greater Princeton Traffic Management Association (GPTMA).

The task force was established more than a year ago to find ways to provide relief from increased traffic congestion on Route 1 in Mercer and Middlesex Counties during the NJDOT's five-year construction program (see story on page one).

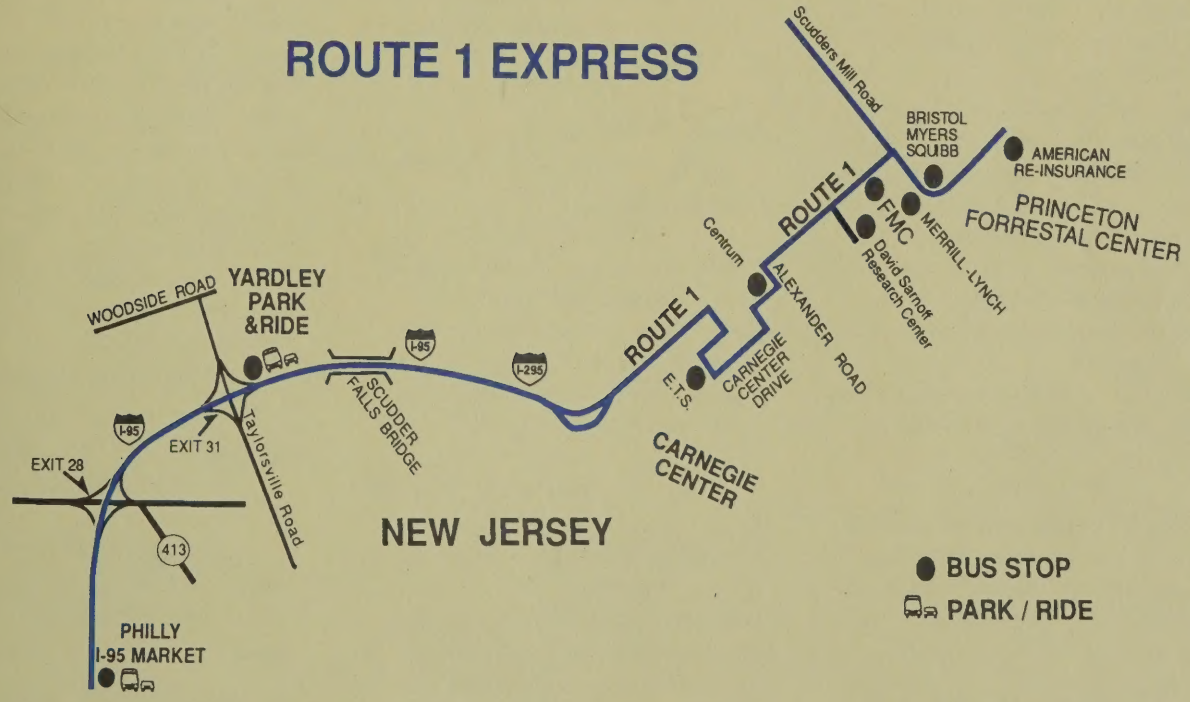
"The Route 1 Express will help eliminate New Jersey congestion by picking up commuters at park and rides before they travel in to the state," explained Joseph Lucas, Executive Director of the GPTMA, which designed and will administer the service. The Route 1 Express is funded with a Federal Highway Administration grant through the NJDOT.

"This will decrease the number of cars on the road and relieve congestion for New Jersey's Route 1 drivers", he added. Lucas noted that surveys of Route 1 employers indicate more than 3,100 Bucks County residents commute daily to jobs along Route 1 in Mercer and southern Middlesex County. Based on an estimated average individual commuter round trip of 30 miles, the Route 1 Express holds the potential to save 3,750 miles a day.

According to Sandra Brillhart of GPTMA, average ridership patterns indicate that about 125 riders can be expected to use the service. As currently designed, the service has a maximum capacity of 196 passengers. The bus service contract provides for expansion if demand for the shuttle exceeds current capacity.

"The Route 1 Express is an example of the creative ways that we are using to decrease congestion during the reconstruction of Route 1," said NJDOT Assistant Commissioner Christine Johnson. "The more cars we take off the roadway, the greater the benefit to all commuters."

Lucas said that, in addition to giving commuters an alternative to fighting traffic in their cars, the service will help the state achieve long-range goals of reducing the air pollution caused when traffic tie-ups leave large numbers of cars and trucks sitting with their engines running.



Take the "A" Bus to:
- Carnegie Center
- David Sarnoff Research Center

Take the "B" Bus to:
- FMC
- Princeton Forrestal Center

Morning Park and Ride Departures:
(Departure times are for both buses at each location)

Philly's I-95 Market	7:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Yardley Park and Ride	7:17 a.m.	8:17 a.m.

Evening Return Trips Begin at 4:35 p.m. and 6:05 p.m.

Call Greater Princeton TMA at 609-452-1491 for a schedule

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remove any vehicles that break down within construction zones.

The NJDOT is urging commuters to consider using NJ TRANSIT's Number 600 bus service which was recently expanded to include stops at Princeton Junction train station. The bus line, which makes stops at major office complexes, shopping malls and park and ride lots along the Route 1 corridor between Trenton and Princeton Forrestal Village, has experienced a 50 percent increase in ridership since Princeton Junction was added as a stop in May.

The Greater Princeton Transportation Management Association, meanwhile, will soon launch a new bus service for the thousands of Route 1 commuters living in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

In addition, commuters are being urged to consider joining carpools and vanpools or asking their employers about the possibility of working from home or on flextime or staggered work week schedules.

"Major employers already are aware that they will need to begin instituting some of these measures in a little over a year in order to comply with federal mandates in the Clean Air Act," Stanwick said.

Fall construction schedule and impacts

North Brunswick

Fashion Plaza to Milltown Road resurfacing, late September through Nov. 12.

Between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. weeknights, one lane will be closed to traffic. North of the Route 130 interchange, where Route 1 widens to three lanes in each direction, the contractor will be permitted to close two lanes between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The project will resume next spring from north of Milltown Road to Route 18 in New Brunswick and include the Ryders Lane and Route 18 interchange ramps.

Thalia Street to Fashion Plaza resurfacing, October to Nov. 15.

The roadway in both directions will be milled and resurfaced between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Next year, the four-lane section will be widened to six lanes scheduled for completion in 1996.

Amtrak bridge replacement.

Launched last December, the construction of the new bridge west of the current bridge is to be completed in November 1994 with few impacts on Route 1 traffic. As part of the project, the Livingston Avenue overpass and traffic signal at Jersey Avenue will be removed and a reverse loop and jughandle constructed at Adams Lane. Those components of the project, scheduled to start next year, will impact traffic.

South Brunswick

Ridge Road to Major Road resurfacing, October to Nov. 12.

The northbound lanes will be milled and resurfaced between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

West Windsor

Princeton Dinky Bridge replacement.

The existing bridge will be demolished during the third week of September. During that week, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. with all traffic stopped completely for short intervals.

Nassau Park to Alexander Road resurfacing, early October to Nov. 23 between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The road will be resurfaced in both directions. Work is to be completed on the northbound lanes by Oct. 22. Starting Nov. 1, the remaining work on the southbound lanes will start after 10 p.m. to limit the impact on local stores gearing up for the Christmas shopping season.

Next year, the section will be part of a 3.2-mile, $31.1 million widening project from Quakerbridge Road to the Dinky Bridge that will bridge Alexander Road over Route 1 in order to eliminate a traffic signal. That project is to be completed by late 1996. Plans originally called for the resurfacing to be part of next year's widening project, but work had to be advanced because of the poor condition of the roadway.

Lawrence

Baker's Basin interchange, new I-95 ramp.

Under a project started in June, the traffic signal on Route 1 will be eliminated by Nov. 1 with access to the Division of Motor Vehicles inspection station provided by an extension of Grovers Mill Road. The entry ramp to I-95 from Route 1 south will be widened next year to two lanes to improve safety. That portion of the work is expected to cause some traffic slowdowns.

Trenton

Olden Avenue bridge replacement.

Work is to be completed by the end of the year on the new bridge with no major traffic impacts anticipated.

Route 129, Barlow and Greenwood Circle eliminations.

Started in 1991, the project to link the new Route 129 into Route 1 and eliminate the Barlow and Greenwood traffic circles is scheduled for completion next year. Route 1 between Broad and Perry streets has been reduced to two 11-foot lanes with no shoulders. A revised detour route around the Trenton train station will soon be instituted.